

REMARKS

Applicants previously elected for prosecution group 1, claims 1-9 and 23. This election is hereby affirmed.

Claims 1 and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Saito (U.S. Patent No. 5,153,729). It is respectfully submitted, however, that claims 1 and 23 are now patentable over Saito for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

...a control information processor for storing in said memory a processing method for indicating how said picture information is to be processed, said processing method selected after said picture information is captured...(emphasis added)

Thus, when a person takes a picture with the digital camera of the present invention, the person is given the option of deciding after the image is captured how the picture information is to be processed.

By contrast, Saito discloses at column 4, line 44 the use of a picture quality mode to specify a data compression system employed by the image processor to store image data in the cartridge. Saito discloses that the picture quality mode is selected before the image is captured. As this is different from Applicants' claimed feature, claim 1 is patentable over Saito.

Applicants' claim 23 also recites that the processing method is selected after the picture information is captured. Thus, claim 23 is also patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) as being anticipated by Lourette et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5, 978,016). It is respectfully submitted, however, that these claims are now patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below:

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

...said processing method remaining in said memory after said memory is separated from said camera...

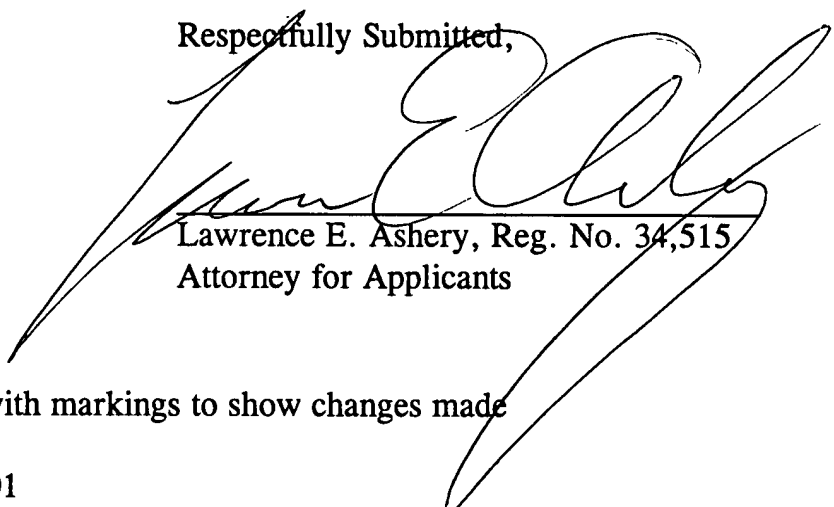
This is completely different than the Lourette reference. In the Lourette reference, the processing method is stored within memory in the camera. The processing method never leaves the camera. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over Lourette.

Claim 23 also includes the feature of the processing method remaining in the memory after the memory is separated from the camera. Thus, claim 23 is also patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

The remaining pending claims all include the feature of the respective independent claims from which they depend. Thus, the remaining dependent claims are also patentable over the art of record by virtue of their dependency (either directly or indirectly) on allowable independent claims.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,



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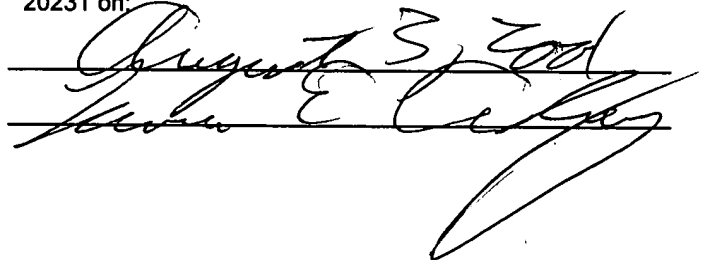
LEA/ap/jam

Enclosure: Version with markings to show changes made

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADECLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A digital camera comprising:

~~a removable nonvolatile~~ an addressable memory which is separatable  
from said camera;

~~picture taking means~~ a picture capturing unit for capturing picture  
information corresponding to an image and for storing said picture information in  
said memory;

~~picture selecting means for selecting a picture; and~~

~~a processing control information processor storage means~~ for storing  
in said memory a processing method for indicating how said picture information is  
to be processed, said processing method selected after said picture information is  
captured, said processing method remaining in said memory after said memory is  
separated from said camera ~~said selected picture in said memory means.~~

1 23. (Amended) A picture transmission system comprising a  
2 digital camera and a picture transmission unit, ~~for use with a removable~~  
3 ~~nonvolatile memory,~~ said digital camera comprising:

4 an addressable memory which is separatable from said camera;

5 ~~picture taking means for storing picture information in said memory;~~

6 a picture capturing unit for capturing picture information  
7 corresponding to an image and for storing said picture information in said memory

8 ~~picture selecting means for selecting a picture; and~~  
9 ~~a processing control information processor storage means for storing~~  
10 ~~in said memory a processing method for indicating how said picture information is~~  
11 ~~to be processed~~~~said selected picture in said memory, said processing method~~  
12 ~~selected after said picture information is captured, said processing method~~  
13 ~~remaining in said memory after said memory is separated from said camera~~

14 and said picture transmission unit comprising:

15 processing means for performing transmission according to picture  
16 information stored in said memory;

17 processing control information obtaining means for obtaining  
18 transmission control information relating to said picture to be transmitted from  
19 said memory; and

20 processing control means for instructing said processing means to  
21 transmit said picture.

22